

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group
Art Unit: Unknown

Attorney
Docket No.: SHC0167

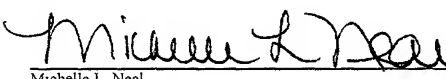
Applicant: Kazuaki Onishi et al.

Invention: DISPOSABLE DIAPER

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} Michelle L. Neal

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box: Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 2 with the following:

- It is an object of this invention to provide a disposable diaper designed so that a pocket adapted to receive feces can have a sufficient capacity to eliminate an anxiety that the feces might cling to a wearer's skin.- -

Please replace the last paragraph beginning on page 12 and continuing on page 13 with the following:

- -With this diaper 1A, even if a large quantity of loose passage or watery feces is discharged on the crotch region 21 and spread on the topsheet 2 into the front waist region 20, most of the discharged feces can be received by the pocket P1 and it is not apprehended that these

discharges might leak out from the batt structure 6A. In this way, this diaper 1A can reliably prevent the discharges from clinging to a wearer's skin in the front waist region 20. Of the discharges having been received by the pocket P1, their liquid-portion is absorbed and contained by the batt structure 4A and the batt structure 6A while their solid-portion is contained in the pocket P1.- -

Please replace the last paragraph beginning on page 20 and continuing on page 21 with the following:

- -The disposable diaper according to this invention enables the pocket defined between the basic and supplementary absorbent batt structure to be opened from the crotch region toward the front waist region to provide increased feces receiving capacity, since distal end portion of the supplementary absorbent batt structure is lifted above the body facing surface of the basic absorbent batt structure by the elastically raised distal end portions of the barrier cuffs. In this way, this diaper can receive a large quantity of feces within the pocket and prevent any quantity of feces from leaking to the supplementary absorbent batt structure. There is no anxiety that any quantity of feces might cling to a wearer's skin in the front waist region.- -

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

- -1. (Amended) A disposable diaper comprising:

a primary absorbent batt assembly;

a pair of barrier cuffs;

at least one supplementary absorbent batt assembly;

said primary absorbent batt assembly including a liquid-pervious body facing surface,

a liquid-impervious garment facing surface, a front waist region, a rear waist region, and a crotch

region;

said barrier cuffs having proximal edge portions and distal edge portions and extending along transversely opposite sides of said primary absorbent batt assembly so as to rise up from said body facing surface of said primary absorbent batt assembly under tension of said barrier cuffs; and

said supplementary absorbent batt assembly having a liquid-pervious body facing surface, an opposite surface, a proximal end portion, and a distal end portion, said supplementary absorbent batt assembly being placed upon said body facing surface of said primary absorbent batt assembly between said barrier cuffs, said proximal end portion lying in said front waist region and said distal end portion being supported along transversely opposite side edges of said supplementary absorbent batt assembly in a vicinity of said distal edge portion by portions of said distal edge portions of said barrier cuffs so that said primary and supplementary absorbent batt assemblies define therebetween a pocket opening from said crotch region toward said front waist region, with at least said distal end portion of said supplementary absorbent batt assembly spaced apart upwardly from said body facing surface of said primary absorbent batt assembly under tension of said barrier cuffs.- -

Please amend Claim 2 as follows:

- -2. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said primary absorbent batt assembly comprises a liquid-pervious topsheet defining said body facing surface thereof, a liquid-impervious backsheet defining said garment facing surface thereof and a liquid-absorbent first core disposed between said liquid-pervious topsheet and said liquid-impervious backsheet.- -

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

- -3. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said supplementary absorbent batt assembly comprises a liquid-absorbent second core and a liquid-pervious sheet covering at least a body facing surface of said liquid-absorbent second core.- -

Please amend Claim 4 as follows:

- -4. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said barrier cuffs include elastic members secured along said distal end portions thereof.- -

Please amend Claim 5 as follows:

- -5. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said distal end portions of said barrier cuffs are positioned inwardly of said proximal end portions of said barrier cuffs.- -

Please amend Claim 6 as follows:

- -6. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 2, wherein said primary absorbent batt assembly comprises a pair of elasticized gasket cuffs extending outwardly from transversely opposite side edges of said first liquid-absorbent core.- -

Please amend Claim 7 as follows:

- -7. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 6, wherein said elasticized gasket cuffs include elastic members secured therealong.- -

Please amend Claim 8 as follows:

- -8. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 6, wherein said proximal end

portions of said barrier cuffs are joined onto said elasticized gasket cuffs.- -

Please amend Claim 9 as follows:

- -9. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said diaper further comprises a second supplementary absorbent batt assembly having a body facing surface covered with a liquid-pervious sheet, said second supplementary absorbent batt assembly lying on the body facing surface of said primary absorbent batt assembly;

said second supplementary absorbent batt assembly having a proximal end portion lying in said rear waist region so as to be placed upon said primary absorbent batt assembly, a distal end portion lying in said crotch region and spaced upward from said primary absorbent batt assembly;

said second supplementary absorbent batt structure being connected, along transversely opposite side edges thereof, to the said distal edge portions of said barrier cuffs with said liquid-pervious sheet lying therebetween so that said primary and second supplementary absorbent batt assemblies form therebetween a pocket opening from said crotch region toward said rear waist region; and

said distal end portions of said supplementary absorbent batt and said second supplementary absorbent batt assemblies are spaced apart from each other by a dimension in a longitudinal direction of the diaper so that said body facing surface of said primary absorbent batt assembly is partially exposed between said distal end portions of said supplementary absorbent batt and said second supplementary absorbent batt assemblies.- -

Please amend Claim 10 as follows:

- -10. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 9, wherein a dimension by which said supplementary absorbent batt structure extends from said front waist region to said

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crotch region is larger than a dimension by that which said second supplementary absorbent batt assembly extends from said rear waist region to said crotch region and said body facing surface of said primary absorbent batt assembly is exposed in said crotch region at a position toward said rear waist region.- -

Please amend Claim 11 as follows:

- -11. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein an absorbing capacity per unit for body wastes of said supplementary absorbent batt assembly is greater than an absorbing capacity per unit for body wastes of said primary absorbent batt assembly.- -

• • • R E M A R K S • • •

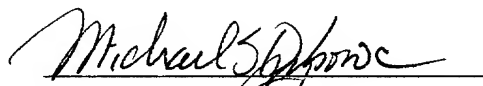
By the present Preliminary Amendment, the specification and claims have been revised to more clearly describe applicants' invention in accordance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Care has been taken so as to avoid the addition of new matter in the specification, claims and abstract.

Entry of the present Preliminary Amendment prior to the examination of the application is respectfully requested.

In the event applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, applicants hereby petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael S. Gzybowski
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Changes Made to Specification Paragraphs

The first full paragraph on page 2 has been amended as follows:

It is an object of this invention to provide a disposable diaper [improved] designed so that a pocket adapted to receive feces can have a sufficient capacity to eliminate an anxiety that the feces might cling to a wearer's skin.

The last paragraph beginning on page 12 and continuing on page 13 has been amended as follows:

With this diaper 1A, even if a large quantity of loose passage or watery feces is discharged on the crotch region 21 and spread on the topsheet 2 into the front waist region 20, most of the discharged feces can be received by the pocket P1 and it is not apprehended that these discharges might leak out from the batt structure 6A. In this way, this diaper 1A can reliably prevent the discharges from clinging to a wearer's skin in the front waist region 20. Of the discharges having been received by the pocket P1, their liquid-portion is absorbed and contained by the batt structure [B1] 4A and the batt structure 6A while their solid-portion is contained in the pocket P1.

The last paragraph beginning on page 20 and continuing on page 21 has been amended as follows:

The disposable diaper according to this invention enables the pocket defined between the basic and supplementary absorbent batt structure to be opened from the crotch region toward the front waist region [with a significantly improved] to provide increased feces receiving capacity, since distal end portion of the supplementary absorbent batt structure is lifted above the body facing surface of the basic absorbent batt structure by the elastically raised distal end

portions of the barrier cuffs. In this way, this diaper can receive a large quantity of feces within the pocket and prevent any quantity of feces from leaking to the supplementary absorbent batt structure. There is no anxiety that any quantity of feces might cling to a wearer's skin in the front waist region.

Changes Made to Claims

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A disposable diaper comprising:

a [basic] primary absorbent batt [structure;] assembly;

a pair of barrier cuffs;

at least one supplementary absorbent batt [structure;] assembly;

said [basic] primary absorbent batt [structure having and] assembly including a liquid-pervious body facing surface, [and] a liquid-impervious garment facing surface, [and] a front waist region, a rear waist region, and a crotch region;

said barrier cuffs having proximal edge portions and distal edge portions and extending along transversely opposite sides of said [basic] primary absorbent batt [structure] assembly so as to rise up from said body facing surface of said [basic] primary absorbent batt [structure] assembly under tension of said [elasticized] barrier cuffs; and

said supplementary absorbent batt [structure] assembly having a liquid-pervious body facing surface, [and] an opposite surface, [and] a proximal end portion, and a distal end portion,

said supplementary absorbent batt assembly [and] being placed upon said body facing surface of said [basic] primary absorbent batt [structure] assembly between said barrier cuffs, said proximal end portion lying in said front waist region [while] and said distal end portion being supported along transversely opposite side edges of said supplementary absorbent batt [structure] assembly in a vicinity of said distal edge portion by [vicinities of] portions of said distal edge

portions of said barrier cuffs so that said [basic] primary and supplementary absorbent batt [structures] assemblies define therebetween a pocket opening from said crotch region toward said front waist region, with [and] at least said distal end portion [except said proximal end portion] of said supplementary absorbent batt [structure] assembly spaced apart upwardly from said body facing surface of said [basic] primary absorbent batt [structure] assembly under tension of said barrier cuffs.

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said [basic] primary absorbent batt [structure] assembly comprises a liquid-pervious topsheet defining said body facing surface thereof, a liquid-impervious backsheet defining said garment facing surface thereof and a liquid-absorbent first core disposed [therebetween.] between said liquid-pervious topsheet and said liquid-impervious backsheet.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said supplementary absorbent batt [structure] assembly comprises a liquid-absorbent second core and a liquid-pervious sheet covering at least a body facing surface of said liquid-absorbent second core.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said barrier cuffs [are elasticized by] include elastic members secured along said distal end portions thereof.

Claim 5 has been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said distal end portions

of said barrier cuffs are positioned inwardly of said proximal end portions of said barrier cuffs.

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 2, wherein said [basic] primary absorbent batt [structure] assembly comprises a pair of elasticized gasket cuffs extending outwardly from transversely opposite side edges of said first liquid-absorbent core.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 6, wherein said elasticized gasket cuffs [are elasticized by] include elastic members secured therealong.

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 6, wherein said proximal end portions of said barrier cuffs are joined onto said elasticized gasket cuffs.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said diaper further comprises a second supplementary absorbent batt [structure] assembly having a body facing surface covered with a liquid-pervious sheet, said second supplementary absorbent batt assembly [and] lying on the body facing surface of said [basic] primary absorbent batt [structure;] assembly;

said second supplementary absorbent batt [structure has] assembly having a proximal end portion lying in said rear waist region so as to be placed upon said [basic] primary absorbent batt [structure,] assembly, a distal end portion lying in said crotch region and spaced upward from said [basic] primary absorbent batt [structure;] assembly;

said second supplementary absorbent batt [structure is] structure being connected, along transversely opposite side edges thereof, to the said distal edge portions of said barrier cuffs with said liquid-pervious sheet lying therebetween so that said [basic] primary and second supplementary absorbent batt [structures] assemblies form therebetween a pocket opening from said crotch region toward said rear waist region; and

said distal end portions of said [two] supplementary absorbent batt and said second supplementary absorbent batt [structures] assemblies are spaced apart from each other by a [given] dimension in a longitudinal direction of the diaper so that said body facing surface of said [basic] primary absorbent batt [structure] assembly is partially exposed between said distal end portions of said [two] supplementary absorbent batt and said second supplementary absorbent batt [structures.] assemblies.

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

10. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 9, wherein [the] a dimension by which said supplementary absorbent batt [structure] structure extends from said front waist region to said crotch region is larger than [the] a dimension by that which said second supplementary absorbent batt [structure] assembly extends from said rear waist region to said crotch region and said body facing surface of said [basic] primary absorbent batt [structure] assembly is exposed in said crotch region at a position [put aside to] toward said rear waist region.

Claim 11 has been amended as follows:

11. (Amended) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein an absorbing capacity per unit for body wastes of said supplementary absorbent batt [structure] assembly is greater than [that] an absorbing capacity per unit for body wastes of said [basic] primary absorbent batt [structure.] assembly.